

Sunday of the Word of God

Parish Guide

*Resources for
Sunday 6 February 2022*

INTRODUCTION TO WORD OF GOD SUNDAY



Pope Francis inaugurated Word of God Sunday in 2020 as a way of making the Sacred Scriptures better known and more widely disseminated. “It would be a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people.” (*Misericordia et Misera*, 7)

In Australia, this special Sunday is to be celebrated on the 1st Sunday of February each year.

Find out more in *Aperuit Illis* (from the first line: “He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”, Lk 24:45). Access document at: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190930_aperuit-illis.html

This guide offers some suggestions for celebrating this Sunday within the Liturgy, as well as other initiatives to promote the ongoing reading and study of Scripture in parish life.

Additional Resources prepared by the ACBC are here: <https://www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday>

If you would like guidance in the implementation and facilitation of any of the resources and initiatives in this Guide, please contact the Parish Renewal & Discipleship team.

Email: faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au Phone: Pina Bernard 8379 1627

CELEBRATE THE WORD OF GOD

Resources to celebrate Sunday of the Word of God in the Liturgy

Video Clip for Sunday of the Word of God *(produced in 2020)*



A short video clip (approximately 2 minutes) has been prepared by the Diocese of Broken Bay for the Sunday of the Word of God. This video can be played at all Masses to further highlight this occasion, and to help people reflect on engaging with the Scriptures in a new way. Please consider showing this video at Masses, as well as distributing through social media. It can be accessed at www.bbcatholic.org.au/bible

Universal Prayer

One or more of the following prayers of intercession may be used for this occasion.

For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Clergy, and all those who minister in the Church, that they find nourishment and guidance through God’s Word in our sacred Scriptures.

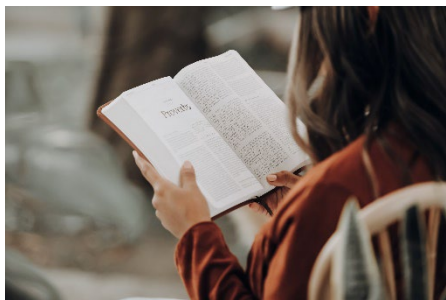
For the Church, that the Word of God continues speak and be heard clearly in the midst of her people.

For our parish community, that we grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures so as to be able to meet God there and be transformed by God’s word.

For all gathered here, that we may learn to dialogue with the living God through the pages of the Bible.

Bulletin Notice for 6 February

Sunday of the Word of God



This Sunday marks *Sunday of the Word of God*, an occasion to celebrate God's word in our Sacred Scriptures. We remember that when we read the Scriptures or hear them proclaimed, we are entering into a true dialogue with God, both individually and communally. God continues to speak, and we are encouraged to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures so as to enter into this dialogue and grow in our friendship with the risen Lord.

Pope Francis tells us, "A profound bond links sacred Scripture and the faith of believers. Since faith comes from hearing, and what is heard is based on the word of Christ (cf. *Rom 10:17*), believers are bound to listen attentively to the word of the Lord, both in the celebration of the liturgy and in their personal prayer and reflection." (*Aperuit Illis #7*)

Consider taking some steps to read or study the Scriptures more this year. Some ideas follow:

1. 'The Bible in A Year' Podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz: Make 2022 the year that you read the whole Bible with this easy-to-use podcast. Includes explanations on the text.
2. 'Pray as You Go' App: Start your day with one of the day's Scripture texts and reflection / music.
3. Join a bible study or reflection group. Take some time to get to know and understand our foundational texts.

Highlighting the Book of the Gospels

In all activities, please adhere to the covid guidelines regarding safe distancing and singing restrictions.

Please consider the following suggestions:

Entrance Procession

The Book of the Gospels should be entered into the Church in the Entrance Procession, either by a Deacon or Lector where present, or a Reader, and placed lying flat on the Altar.

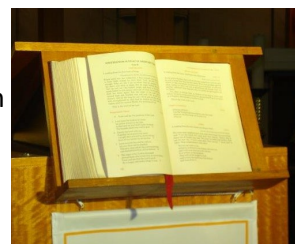
1. Decorate the Book of the Gospels with green ribbons to give additional focus to the Book
2. Pace the Entrance Procession so that sufficient space and reverence is given to the Book of the Gospels as it is processed in, held high
3. Place the Book of the Gospels slowly and reverently on the Altar

Gospel Procession

1. The Gospel procession can be accompanied by two Altar Servers carrying candles
2. Additional reverence can be given to Book of the Gospels by ensuring it is held high and shown to the congregation in a deliberate way
3. Include a longer Gospel Acclamation. Note that if the Acclamation is not sung, it should be omitted.

Enthronement of the Book of the Gospels

1. Prior to Mass, set up a table at the foot of the ambo. It can be decorated with a cloth or fresh flowers. Include a book stand. After the Gospel is read, place the Book of the Gospels open on the book stand so that it is open for the rest of the Mass facing the congregation, so that it can clearly reflect being fed from both the Table of the Eucharist and the Table of the Word.



Blessing of Readers

You may consider offering a blessing for readers on this day. The following is from the Book of Blessings, pp.775-7.

This blessing would take place immediately after the Liturgy of the Word, following on from the General Intercessions. Note: If desired, each new reader may be presented with a Bible after the prayer of blessing. Please adhere to the covid guidelines regarding safe distancing.

Order of Blessing within Mass

1831: *After the gospel reading, the celebrant in the homily, based on the sacred text and pertinent to the particular place and the people involved, explains the meaning of the celebration.*

General Intercessions

1832: *The general intercessions follow, either in the form usual at Mass or in the form provided here. The celebrant concludes the intercessions with the prayer of blessing. From the following intentions those best for the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.*

The celebrant says:

The word of God calls us out of darkness into the light of faith.
With the confidence of Gods children
let us ask the Lord to hear our prayers and to bless these readers.

R Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister

For the Church, that we may continue to respond to the word of God
which is proclaimed in our midst,
we pray to the Lord.

For all who listen as the Scriptures are proclaimed,
that God's word may find in them a fruitful field,
we pray to the Lord.

For those who have not heard the message of Christ,
that we may be willing to bring them the good news of salvation,
we pray to the Lord.

For our readers, that with deep faith and confident voice
they may announce Gods saving word,
we pray to the Lord.

Prayer of Blessing

1833 *With hands extended over the new readers the celebrant says immediately:*

Everlasting God,
when he read in the synagogue at Nazareth,
your Son proclaimed
the good news of salvation
for which he would give up his life.

Bless these readers.
As they proclaim your words of life,
strengthen their faith
that they may read with conviction
and boldness,
and put into practice what they read.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISSEMINATE THE WORD OF GOD

Resources to disseminate the Word of God to all parishioners

Sale of Bibles in Parishes

Through the generosity of the Fr Harry David Estate, the Diocese of Broken Bay continues to offer Bibles at a subsidised cost for different age groups (*please see descriptions below*).

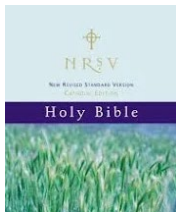
After Masses

All Bibles on offer through the Fr Harry Davis Estate are now available and can be purchased in time to make them available for sale at the parish on the weekend of Sunday of the Word of God. Making Bibles available in a prominent way over these weekends will provide the opportunity for parishioners to purchase a Bible, helping get the Bible into homes and hands as the new year commences.

Bibles for Year 6 Students

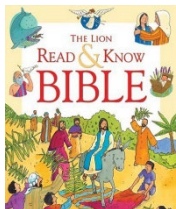
A number of parishes offer Bibles to their graduating Year 6 students each year, both from the Catholic Primary School, and from state schools in SRE classes. The Harper Collins Catholic NRSV Bible offered through the Fr Harry Davis Estate for \$14 is an excellent choice for this purpose. Please consider offering Bibles in this way as a gift to the young people of the parish.

Subsidised Bibles Offered Through the Fr Harry Davis Estate



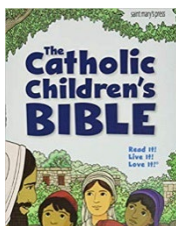
The Harper Collins NRSV Catholic Edition Holy Bible **Fr Harry Davis Estate Price \$14.00; RRP \$35.99**

This NRSV Bible includes Anglicized text, introductory materials for every book, timeline of Catholic Church and world history Concordance to help readers find specific words and passages, sixteen-page map section. It is a hardcover bible.



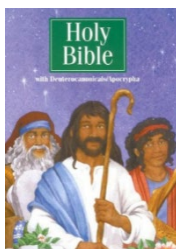
The Lion Read & Know Bible **Fr Harry Davis Estate Price \$15.00; RRP \$24.99**

This hardcover edition features over 50 bible stories, retold in simple language, easy for young readers to engage with. Stories are accompanied by colourful double-sided page illustrations throughout and includes 30 fun and informative encyclopaedic features helping children develop a more in depth understanding. Ideal for ages 5-8.



The Catholic Children's Bible **Fr Harry Davis Estate Price \$58.00; RRP \$84.95**

This complete Bible inspires and empowers children to read, understand, and love the Word of God, in a revised edition. With new, easy-to-follow Reading Plans and colourful stickers, the stories of our Catholic faith come alive with vivid, awe-inspiring artwork, larger text, and design features that not only enhance comprehension but create enjoyment.



CEV Young Christian's First Bible **Fr Harry Davis Estate Price \$18.00; RRP \$39.99**

This hardcover Bible uses the Contemporary English Version which is a proper translation of the whole Bible for children. It means that children of primary school age are able to read all the stories of the Bible themselves. The Bible contains 34 pages of full colour illustrations, as well as maps, a chronology of the bible and a mini-dictionary. Ideal for ages 9 to teens. (*Note: Limited Stock*)

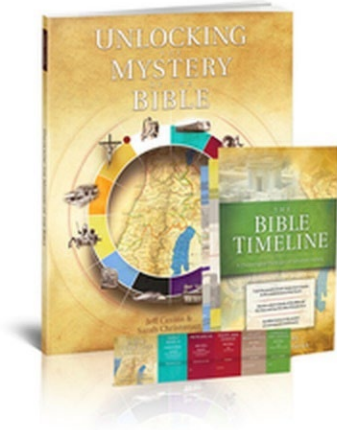
For all Bible enquiries and purchases please contact
Pina Bernard at pina.bernard@bbcatholic.org.au or 8379 1627

STUDY THE WORD OF GOD

Resources to study the Word of God throughout the year

Below is a selection of resources that can be used in parishes. These resources are held by Evangelisation Broken Bay and can be reviewed by arrangement with the Parish Renewal & Discipleship team by emailing faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible – Ascension



Introduction:

Many people want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word but give up because it is so complicated. The *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* study program helps you to get the "big picture" of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church.

In this study, presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how to read the Bible so that you can actually understand it. Aided by a unique color-coded *Bible Timeline*TM Chart that arranges the key people, places, and events of Scripture in chronological order, *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* will help you discover the story of salvation history and understand how you fit into God's plan.

The 8-session *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* study program includes video presentations that explore the twelve time periods of *The Bible Timeline* Chart.

Components of This Study Program:

- ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* DVD set**, which includes eight 30-minute video presentations.
- ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* Leader Guide**

- ***Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* Student Workbook**, which contains talk notes, discussion questions and responses, and home preparation questions and reading assignments designed to accompany these videos. ***The Bible Timeline* Chart** and ***The Bible Timeline* Bookmark** are also included with the Student Workbook.

Sessions:

- 1: Introduction: Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
- 2: Early World: Genesis 1-11
- 3: Patriarchs: Genesis 12-50
- 4: Egypt and Exodus; Desert Wanderings
- 5: Conquest and Judges; Royal Kingdom
- 6: Divided Kingdom; Exile; Return
- 7: Maccabean Revolt; Messianic Fulfillment Part 1
- 8: The Church: Acts of the Apostles

Further information:

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/unlocking-the-mystery>

Purchase:

<https://store.parousiamedia.com/unlocking-the-mystery-of-the-bible/>

Starter Pack - \$149.99 (includes DVDs, Leader Guide, Student Workbook, Bible Timeline Chart)

Student Workbook – \$29.99 (includes Bible Timeline Chart)

Note that discounts are available for this resource.

Online options are also available.

Please contact us for further information at faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au

Other studies from Ascension Press include:

- Matthew: The King and His Kingdom
- Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John
- Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom
- Exodus: Called to Freedom
- Romans: The Gospel of Salvation **and more**

The Big Picture – CaFE & Bible Society



Introduction:

The Big Picture is a prayerful, inspirational Bible course that helps people find their place in the big picture of salvation history.

Each person needs their own Big Picture Book/Journal which includes a TV quality DVD.

The Course covers 12 engaging sessions taking you through Salvation History, starting at the very beginning with God the Creator right through to the End Times with the Second Coming of Christ. Your journal gives you 6 daily Bible reflections and questions for you to prayerfully ponder each week.

You then meet with a small group to discuss and share. The session concludes with an overview of the next week's topic, followed by a 15 minute DVD presentation from amazing speakers filmed around the biblical world. These are also available as free downloads to anyone who has bought the course book.

This could be a good resource for Lent, with the first 6 weeks covered during Lent, and the following 6 weeks during the Easter season until Pentecost.

Components of This Study Program:

- **The Big Picture Book** includes the DVD
- Videos can be downloaded online using a link provided with the book.

Sessions:

1. The Plan
2. God
3. Creation
4. The Fall
5. The People
6. Incarnation
7. The Cross
8. New Life
9. Resurrection
10. Holy Spirit
11. The Church
12. End Times

Further information:

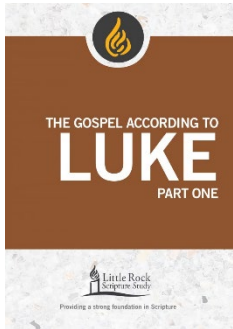
<http://www.thebigpicturecourse.org/>

Purchase:

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catholicfaithexplore@gmail.com

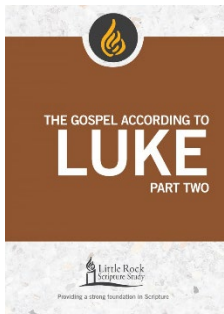
The Big Picture Book + DVD – \$29.95, with generous discounts for more than 10 copies.

The Gospel According to Luke Part 1 and 2 – Little Rock Scripture Study



Part 1: The Gospel of Luke demonstrates the universal nature of Jesus' mission and the compassion of God. Part One of this study includes Luke 1:1—11:54, taking the reader from the infancy narratives of John the Baptist and Jesus to their

births and then to the Galilean ministry of Jesus. Commentary, study and reflection questions, prayers and access to recorded lectures are included. 6 sessions.



Part 2: In Part Two of this study (Luke 12:1—24:53), readers travel with Jesus from the region of Galilee to the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus will enter into his passion and resurrection. Luke's focus on God's faithfulness will encourage you to trust.

Commentary, study and reflection questions, prayers and access to recorded lectures are included. 5 sessions.

This study includes daily personal study for about 20 minutes per day. Participants gather for a weekly sharing time, and to watch a wrap-up lecture for that lesson.

Components of This Study Program:

- The Gospel According to Luke Part 1 Booklet (includes biblical text and commentary)
- The Gospel According to Luke Part 2 Booklet (includes biblical text and commentary)
- Note: DVDs can be downloaded online for free

Further information:

<https://littlerockscripture.org/Products/E6393/The-Gospel-According-to-Luke-Part-One>

<https://littlerockscripture.org/Products/6369/The-Gospel-According-to-Luke-Part-Two>

Purchase:

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/LLRSSR/>

Both books together - \$49.95

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9780814663684/>

Luke Part 1 – \$29.95

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9780814663691/>

Luke Part 2 – \$29.95

Introduction to the Bible - Little Rock Scripture Study



Introduction: This study has 7 sessions, incorporating an introductory session and 6 lessons. The Study Set includes a Study Guide by Catherine Upchurch and a commentary, *'Introduction to the Bible, A Catholic Guide to Studying Scripture,'* by Stephen J. Binz (Liturgical Press).

This study opens the Bible for newcomers and experienced Bible students alike, providing a real boost to those looking to gain more from study of the Bible. Participants will become comfortable finding their way around the Bible, develop a better understanding of its themes and writing styles, and gain clear insights about Catholic use and interpretation of the Bible.

This study includes daily personal study for about 20 minutes per day. Participants gather for a weekly sharing time, and to watch a wrap-up lecture for that lesson.

Components of This Study Program:

- Study Guide and Commentary per participant
- Set of DVDs and Answer Guide for the leader

Sessions:

Introductory Session

Lesson 1—The Bible as God's Self-Revelation

The word of God in Christian Life

Lesson 2—Choosing a Bible Today

Exploring Your Bible

Lesson 3—The Scriptures of God's People

The Inspired Word of God's Church

Lesson 4—The Word of God in Human Words

The Challenge of Faithful Interpretation

Lesson 5—The Fallacy of Biblical Fundamentalism

The Canon of the Bible

Lesson 6—The Importance of Biblical Scholarship

How to Read and Study the Bible

Further information:

<https://littlerockscripture.org/Products/1716/Introduction-to-the-BibleStudy-Set>

Purchase:

<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9780814617168/>

Study Set - \$24.95

DVD lectures - \$64.95

Answer Guide - \$4.95